

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 071807Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7270  
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EXDIS  
E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW  
SUBJ: URANIUM SUPPLY FOR FRG

REF: BONN 05498 (EXDIS, NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH RECENT GERMAN OFFICIAL AND PRESS STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF THE SUPPLY OF NATURAL, LOW-ENRICHED AND HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM TO THE FRG HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED, AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER DURING HIS VISIT TO THE GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT BIBLIS ON APRIL 5 AND STATEMENTS BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON APRIL 7 HIGHLIGHT ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES IF THE CANADIAN EMBARGO ON NATURAL URANIUM AND THE US REFUSAL TO LICENSE EXPORT OF HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM WERE TO CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO BRUNNER, THE CANADIAN AND US EMBARGOES OF NATURAL URANIUM AND HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM "... SHAKE THE CONFIDENCE ESTABLISHED OVER YEARS OF COMMERCIALY ORIENTED COOPERATION ...". IF  
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THE US DOES NOT RESUME THE EXPORT OF HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM, THE VERY PROMISING DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGH-TEMPERATURE REACTOR CANNOT BE CONTINUED. THE EMPLOYEES OF NUKEM, THE BIGGEST PRODUCER OF FUEL ELEMENTS, ARE THREATENED WITH LAYOFFS. THE CANADIAN EMBARGO ENDANGERS TOLL ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS WITH THE USSR. BRUNNER CONCLUDED HIS INTERVIEW ON AN

OPTIMISTIC NOTE. HE ANTICIPATES SUPPLY WILL BE RESUMED SOON.

3. GRUENEWALD, SPOKESMAN FOR THE FRG GOVERNMENT, EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG VIEWS THE CESSATION OF CANADIAN DELIVERIES "... NOT WITHOUT CONCERN ...". HE STATED, HOWEVER, "JUSTIFIED" HOPES THAT THE PROBLEM WILL SOON BE RESOLVED. SHIPMENTS OF HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) FROM THE US HAVE ESSENTIALLY CEASED, ALTHOUGH SMALL QUANTITIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED. IF SHIPMENTS OF HEU IN THE QUANTITIES AGREED WERE NOT PROMPTLY RESUMED, EUROPEAN RESEARCH REACTORS MUST BE SHUT DOWN DURING THE CURRENT YEAR. GRUENEWALD STATED HIS "PERSONAL" BELIEF THAT THE US-FRG DIFFERENCES ABOUT THE GERMAN-BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURRENT FREEZE ON SHIPMENTS OF HEU FROM THE US.

4. IN A MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, OFFICIALS OF THE FRG MINISTRVOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CONFIRMED THAT THE PUBLIC STANCE TAKEN BY THE FRG WAS DELIBERATELY LOW KEY AND CONFIDENT. ACTUALLY, HOWEVER, CONTINUED OPERATION OF SEVERAL GERMAN AND EUROPEAN RESEARCH REACTORS WILL BE JEOPARDIZED UNLESS US SHIPMENTS OF HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM ARE PROMPTLY RESUMED. THESE INCLUDE THE KNK II, FAST REACTOR EXPERIMENT AT KARLSRUHE, FOR WHICH FUEL FABRICATION MUST BEGIN IN APRIL 1977. FRG REPS UNDERSTAND THAT THE HEU FOR THIS REACTOR IS ALSO DELAYED BY THE US NRDC INTERVENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE NRC OPPOSING THE EXPORT OF 17 KG HEU. IN GENERAL, OTHER GERMAN AND EUROPEAN RESEARCH REACTORS MUST SHUT DOWN AT THE BEGINNING OF 1978, SHOULD DELAY IN FUEL SUPPLY CONTINUE TO DISRUPT THE FABRICATION PIPELINE. NUKEM IS, OF COURSE, THE FABRICATOR FOR MOST OF THESE REACTORS BOTH IN GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE.

5. DATA SUPPLIED BY BMFT REPS INDICATE THAT FRG FACES A SHORTAGE OF SOME 1131 TONNES OF NATURAL URANIUM FROM CANADA. ORDERS OF HEU FROM THE US TOTAL 386.4 KILOGRAMS, FOR WHICH LICENSES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED. ONLY 7.8 KILOGRAMS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR EXPORT. THE FRG WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL 200 KILOGRAMS OF HEU -- 80 KG. FOR THE THTR, FOR WHICH AN EXPORT LICENSE HAS NOT YET BEEN REQUESTED AND 120 KG. FOR WHICH THE ERDA ENRICHMENT CONTRACT HAS NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED.  
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. STEINER, 4/8/77 VMT.

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## Message Attributes

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